

D) Please amend the ABSTRACT as set forth below:

ABSTRACT

5 A security tag includes a tag body and an attaching pin for attaching
the tag body to a protected article. The security tag further includes a locking
mechanism for releasably preventing the attaching pin from being removed
from the protected article. The locking mechanism is provided for
mechanically or magnetically released the attaching pin for detaching the tag
10 body from the article. In a preferred embodiment, the locking mechanism
further includes a plurality of balls for tightly holding to the attaching pin for
releasably preventing the attaching means from being removed from the
article. ~~In a preferred embodiment, the~~ The locking mechanism ~~further~~
15 includes a mechanical unlocking probe finger for applying a mechanical force
to release the balls from the attaching pin ~~whereby the attaching pin may be~~
~~released and detached from the tag body. In a preferred embodiment, the~~ The
locking mechanism further includes an unlocking magnet for applying a
magnet force to release the balls from the attaching pin ~~whereby the attaching~~
20 ~~pin may be released and detached from the tag body.~~

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